



BUREAU UPDATE TO TC-RPPOS OCTOBER 2023

(Prepared by the IPPC Secretariat)

Introduction

- [1] This paper on recent work of the Bureau should be considered in conjunction with the detailed information contained in its report. In this regard, the report of the full week meeting in June, during which outcomes of CPM-17 were considered in depth, is now available at:

https://assets.ippc.int/static/media/files/publication/en/2023/08/Report_Bureau-FINAL.pdf

June Bureau meeting

- [2] The Bureau reiterated that, in order fully to support implementation of the IPPC's Strategic Framework, the development agenda components of the framework should be present as a consistent theme in the agendas for key governance meetings, particularly the CPM. Consequently, a great deal of the Bureau's time in June was spent on reviewing implementation of the Strategic Framework to date and planning for further progress in this regard. It is evident that good progress is being made in most development agendas, but efforts must continue, and equally, progress must be monitored against plans and also in taking into account changes in our operating environment in order that adjustments and adaptation can be made (including considering the same for the Strategic Framework from time to time, as appropriate). As part of the approach to support implementation, the Bureau commented that, where possible, objectives communicated on the International Phytosanitary Portal should be described in relation to the relevant development agenda item or items of the Strategic Framework.
- [3] The Bureau reviewed progress on each of the Strategic Framework's development agenda items. Related outcomes and decisions included:
- Finalising draft terms of reference for CPM Focus Groups to be established on Global Research Coordination and Diagnostic Laboratory Networking;
 - Noting that the membership of the Pest Outbreak Alert and Response Systems (POARS) steering group had now been identified and that the group would meet after a Secretarial lead has been appointed and suggesting that the Africa Phytosanitary Program be integrated with the POARS aspects of the Strategic Framework;
 - Noting that the Implementation and Capacity Development Committee (IC) has established a team charged with development of guidance on the use of third-party entities;
 - Reviewing progress on the CPM Focus Group on the impacts of climate change on plant health including, in particular, that the draft IPPC Guide for the assessment and management of climate change impacts on plant pests has been reviewed by the Focus Group, and was then to be reviewed by the IC and then submitted for consultation;
 - Noting continued progress on the management of e-commerce and postal and courier pathways and on the draft IPPC Guide on this topic which has been drafted and reviewed by the IC, with publication scheduled for later in 2023. There will also be a survey to gather information on case studies and communication activities ;
 - Noting that the first specific commodity standard on *Mangifera indica* fruit as an annex to ISPM 46 would be part of this year's consultations on draft IPPC guidance documents. It was noted that once adopted, this could then be used as a template for future commodity standards.

- Having been kindly joined virtually by the lead of the Focus Group on Sustainable Funding for the ePhyto Solution, reviewing the emerging funding model under development that is intended to be presented to CPM-18. Despite the extensive work being conducted on developing a funding model for CPM consideration, it should be emphasized that the Bureau continues to agree that the need for sustainable funding for ePhyto should be raised with the FAO, and indeed not just for ePhyto, but more generally for the overall IPPC work programme.

- [4] The Bureau wanted to emphasize its support for the Africa Phytosanitary Program that has been developed by the initiative of the IPPC Secretary. This support is clearly captured in the report, and it is noted that the Africa Phytosanitary Program is an activity linked to the Strategic Framework under its development agenda item of POARS. The Secretary has been indefatigable in his efforts to launch this programme and in continuing to pursue identification of support, including resources. Progress to date in June included having selected the pilot countries and initiation of review of list of pests upon which each country will focus their efforts. The Bureau noted the significant progress that has been made and, I would add, it is noteworthy how quickly this program has developed from its initial inception. The Bureau agreed that decision points relating to the Africa Phytosanitary Program will be developed for CPM-18.
- [5] It should also be noted that the Bureau supported an extension to the mandate of the CPM Focus Group on the Safe Provision of Food and Other Humanitarian Aid and committed to providing comments on the draft specification on this subject (which has now been done);
- [6] As CPM-17 in March 2023 was the first resumption of physical CPM sessions following the covid-based restrictions of the previous three years, the Bureau spent some time reviewing arrangements and feedback from participants with a view to building on this and factoring such experience into arrangements for CPM-18. Incidentally, the dates for CPM-18 are now confirmed: 15-19 April 2024, and the location will be the FAO headquarters in Rome. Side sessions are still under consideration and the various candidates include the following: e-commerce; case studies on the use of systems approaches; *Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense* TR4; and/or research, international cooperation, and coordination. Note that the Bureau felt in June that no more than two side sessions could be accommodated during one CPM meeting.
- [7] I would like to note the significant and effective support from the Secretariat in preparing for and holding the Bureau meetings. FAO legal services have also been extremely responsive and accommodating when relevant questions and considerations arise requiring their expert advice. In addition, the updates provided to the Bureau from all bodies of the IPPC demonstrate the abundant commitment and enthusiasm for the IPPC that all participants have and that is in no small part a reason for the ongoing achievements and advances of the IPPC. This factor positions the IPPC Community very well for addressing the numerous challenges that we will face in the future.